

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reconfigurable cartridge processing module for use in a data storage system, comprising:

5 a frame having a plurality of sets of mounting locations provided thereon so that said frame defines a first component configuration and a second component configuration, the first component configuration comprising:

10 a first cartridge receiving device mounted to a first set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said first cartridge receiving device is located at a first position within said frame; and

15 a second cartridge receiving device mounted to a second set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said second cartridge receiving device is located at a second position within said frame; the second component configuration comprising a third
20 cartridge receiving device mounted to a third set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame.

2. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 1, wherein said first cartridge receiving device comprises a half-width cartridge read/write device.

3. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 1, wherein said second cartridge receiving device comprises a cartridge storage magazine.

4. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 1, wherein said third cartridge receiving device

comprises a full-width cartridge read/write device.

5 5. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 1, wherein the second position is located adjacent the first position so that said second cartridge receiving device is located adjacent said first cartridge receiving device when said frame is in the first component configuration.

5 6. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 1, wherein the second position is located alongside the first position so that said second cartridge receiving device is located alongside said first cartridge receiving device when said frame is in the first component configuration.

5 7. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 1, wherein said frame comprises a lower plate and an upper plate, the lower plate and the upper plate being positioned in generally parallel, spaced-apart relation, and wherein the plurality of sets of mounting locations are provided on the lower and upper plates of said frame.

5 8. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 7, wherein said first and second cartridge receiving devices are located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the first component configuration.

5 9. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 7, wherein said third cartridge receiving device is located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the second component configuration.

10. A reconfigurable cartridge processing module for use in a data storage system, comprising:

a frame having a plurality of sets of mounting locations provided thereon so that said frame defines a first component configuration and a second component configuration, the first component configuration comprising:

a first cartridge receiving device mounted to a first set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said first cartridge receiving device is located at a first position within said frame; and

a second cartridge receiving device mounted to a second set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said second cartridge receiving device is located at a second position within said frame, the second position being located adjacent the first position so that said second cartridge receiving device is located alongside said first cartridge receiving device;

the second component configuration comprising a third cartridge receiving device mounted to a third set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame.

11. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 10, wherein said first cartridge receiving device comprises a half-width cartridge read/write device.

12. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 10, wherein said second cartridge receiving

device comprises a cartridge storage magazine.

13. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 10, wherein said third cartridge receiving device comprises a full-width cartridge read/write device.

14. A reconfigurable cartridge processing module for use in a data storage system, comprising:

frame means for defining a first component configuration and a second component configuration, the first component configuration comprising:

first cartridge receiving means mounted to said frame means for receiving at least one data cartridge; and

second cartridge receiving means mounted to said frame means for receiving said at least one data cartridge;

the second component configuration comprising third cartridge receiving means mounted to said frame for receiving said at least one data cartridge.

15. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 14, wherein said second cartridge receiving means is mounted adjacent said first cartridge receiving means when said frame means is in the first component configuration.

16. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 14, wherein said second cartridge receiving means is mounted alongside said first cartridge receiving means when said frame means is in the first component configuration.

17. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module

of claim 14, wherein said first cartridge receiving means comprises cartridge read/write means for reading data from and writing data to said at least one data cartridge.

18. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 14, wherein said second cartridge receiving means comprises cartridge storage magazine means for storing said at least one data cartridge.

19. The reconfigurable cartridge processing module of claim 14, wherein said third cartridge receiving means comprises cartridge read/write means for reading data from and writing data to said at least one data cartridge.

20. A method, comprising:

providing a frame having a plurality of sets of mounting locations thereon;

defining a first component configuration by mounting a first cartridge receiving device to a first set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame and by mounting a second cartridge receiving device to a second set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that the second cartridge receiving device is located adjacent the first cartridge receiving device; or, in the alternative,

defining a second component configuration by mounting a third cartridge receiving device to a third set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame.